

McCain. Babbitt has testified that he was aware that Eckstein's allegations about his meeting with Babbitt had become public through the leaking of Eckstein's deposition testimony. He therefore wanted to "get on the record my version of the Eckstein conversation,"⁸⁵⁶ even though Thompson had not yet presented a single question to Babbitt.

Babbitt states that he had heightened concern with getting his version out in October 1997 because he was "sure" he would be called as a witness before Sen. Thompson's Committee and wanted to get his "version" out prior to his testimony.⁸⁵⁷ Again, Babbitt acknowledged before the Grand Jury, he knew that the conversation with Eckstein "had come back to haunt him," and that this time he had "to be more forthcoming . . . than [he] had been with Senator McCain."⁸⁵⁸

**(b) Babbitt Telephoned McCain and
Apologized for Misleading Him**

On Oct. 12, 1997, The Washington Post ran an AP story headlined, *Babbitt Admits Falsehood in Casino Bid*. The next day, Columbus Day, White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles called Babbitt at his office and requested that he come to Bowles's office at the White House. Babbitt went to the White House not long thereafter and had a short meeting with Bowles and White House Counsel Charles F.C. Ruff. Bowles told Babbitt that lying to a United States senator was unacceptable and serious business. Bowles also told Babbitt that he should call Sen. McCain to make amends.

⁸⁵⁶*Id.* at 228.

⁸⁵⁷*Id.*

⁸⁵⁸*Id.* at 290-91.